Gas Leakage at Cochin

1642. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether over two hundred people including factory workers and children were affected after inhailing gas that leaked from a barrel containing a chemical substance in the industrial belt of Eloor at Cochin on September 13, 1985;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was conducted into the gas leakage;

(c) what is the total number of cases of gas leakage that occurred during the months of September and October, 1985 in various industrial establishments; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to check gas leakage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) According to a report received from the Government of Kerala, fifty three children were affected by the gas leakage. No factory workers were involved.

(b) A two member Committee consisting of Board Member and Professor of Chemical Engineering, Madras has been appointed by the State Government to go into causes of leakage and allied matters.

(c) State Governments of Haryana, Punjab and Maharashtra have reported five cases of gas leakages.

(d) The State Governments have been advised to identify hazardous units and to take appropriate measures for improving safety standards in those units.

Textile Export to Australia

1643 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has suggested that Australia should remove trade restrictions so as to promote export of Indian textiles and other items;

(b) whether India has also proposed that the two countries should enter into link deals;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached between the two countries; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Indo-German Protocol

1644. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a protocol was signed by the Indo-German Joint Economic Commission on the 1st September, 1985;

(b) if so, to what extent the Commission has made purposeful decisions which could help both the countries;

(c) whether the latest protocol shows that there is a change in attitude of that country towards India; and

(d) if so, to what extent this change of attitude will help in promoting trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No protocol was signed by the Indo-German Joint Economic Commission on the 1st September, 1985. However, on the 29th August, 1985, at the conclusion of the 6th Session of the Indo-FRG Joint Commision for Industrial and Economic Cooperation the minutes of the Session were signed by the heads of the respective delegations

(b) The commission was useful in highlighting and deciding on issues of bilateral economic importance.

(c) and (d) The attitude of the Germans towards India remains as cordial as in the past in regard to bilateral co-operation.

Handling over of mineral bearing areas to private Sector

1645. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have sought the views of the State Governments as well as from public sector companies on the issue of throwing open the mineral bearing areas to the private sector for exploitation;

(b) whether the Central Government have constituted a high power working group for the purpose; and

(c) if so, by when the working group is likely to submit its report to the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Committee on de-reservation of mineral bearing areas has been costituted in the Department of Mines on 11-7-85.

(c) The time for submission of the report assigned to the Committee is six months from the date of its constitution.

कतिपय कंपनियों के विरुद्ध आर्थिक अपराधों के आरोप

1646. **श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ सांसद सदस्यों ने 22 अक्तूबर 1985 के अपने पत्र में विदेशों में मजदूरों को भेजने वाली कतिपय कंपनियों के विरुद्ध आर्थिक अपराधों और लोगों को धोखा देने के आरोप लगाये थे और इस मामले की जांच करने की भी मांग की थी ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर क्या कार्यवाई की गई है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पुजारी) : (क) और (ख) जी हां । माननीय संसद सदस्य द्वारा श्रम मंत्री को संबोधित 22 अक्तूबर, 1985 के पत्र की एक प्रति भी वित्त मंत्रालय में प्राप्त हुई है जिसमें भर्ती करने वाली एजेंसियों के विरुद्ध आरोप लगाए गए है । कोई विशिष्ट शिकायत न होने के कारण किसी भर्ती एजेंसी के खिलाफ कार्यवाही आरंभ करना संभव नहीं हो सका है । तथापि, आयकर विभाग के अधीन क्षेत्रीय प्राधिकारियों से मामले में, जहां कहीं आवश्यक हो, कार्यवाही करने को कहा गया है ।

केन्द्रीय राजस्व विभाग के अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध भ्रष्टाचार के आरोप

1647. **श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय राजस्व विभाग के कुछ अधिकारियों को आयकर, उत्पाद शुल्क और सीमा शुल्क की वसूली और मूल्यांकन के मामले में भ्रष्टाचार करने के आरोप में मुअत्तिल किया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो जनवरी 1985 से कितने अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही की गई है और प्रत्येक के विरुद्ध किस-किस प्रकार की कार्यवाई की गई है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पुजारी) : (क) और (ख) अपेक्षित सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और उसे यथा संभव शीघ्र सभा पटल पर रखा दिया जायेगा ।